ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OPERATIONS

LAMPETER CSO SCHEME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

PROJECT RECORD NUMBER 37408

Report prepared by
ACA Field Operations for
Tilbury Douglas Construction Ltd.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT LAMPETER C.S.O SCHEME

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SUMMARY

A proposal to upgrade the Lampeter Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) required a desk-based assessment of the route to assess the archaeological implications of the scheme. Tilbury Douglas Construction Ltd. commissioned Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology Field Operations to carry out the assessment. The proposed pipeline route runs around the southwestern edge of Lampeter from Peterwell School to Bridge Street. It crosses a well established landscape with a long and interesting history. A Roman road running from Carmarthen to Llanio has been traced crossing the southern edge of the assessment area from the southwest. The line of the road has been fairly well established in the area. It appears that some of its length has been washed away by the Afon Teifi, but at the east end of the scheme the pipeline may cross it between the Sewerage Treatment Works (STW) and Bridge Street.

Along its c.1km route the pipeline passes through a number of field boundaries. The field boundaries all date from at least the early 19th century and most are almost certainly 18th century or earlier. Damage to the boundaries will be confined to the 12m pipeline corridor, so the overall impact of the scheme on the boundaries is fairly low.

As with all desk-based assessments this project has been a rapid, but extensive examination of all readily available sources for relevant information regarding the development of the historic landscape within and bounding the survey area. Every effort has been made to ensure that the archaeological potential of the survey area has been properly assessed. However, the buried archaeological resource is unpredictable and the discovery of unexpected archaeological features during the groundworks cannot be ruled out.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by N A Page, AIFA, Project Manager, Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology, Field Operations. ACA are grateful to Peter Grainger, Tilbury Douglas Construction Ltd. for answering the many queries regarding the technical aspects of the scheme and to the staff at the various repositories visited for their assistance during the research.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT PROPOSALS AND COMMISSION

An archaeological appraisal of the area to be affected revealed that the the Lampeter CSO scheme will potentially impact on significant archaeological remains. Therefore, Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were commissioned by Tilbury Douglas Construction Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological investigations to assess the likely impact of the scheme.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

This project was designed to investigate the archaeological potential of the affected areas through a programme of desk-based assessment and field evaluation. The project specification was prepared in response to a brief set by the regional archaeological curators (Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management).

1.3 REPORT OUTLINE

This report describes the physical environment of the study area (Section 2) before summarizing the archaeological resource (Section 3) and the likely impact of the proposed scheme on that resource (Section 4). Recommendations based on the results of Sections 3 and 4 are given in Section 5. Detailed supporting data are presented in a series of appendices.

1.4 ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

All sites recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record will be identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Any new sites will be assigned a PRN and located by their NGR. References to primary cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given throughout the text, full details will be found in Appendix Two and the bibliography.

2. THE STUDY AREA

2.1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Lampeter is situated on the floor of the Teifi Valley on the north bank of the river. It is flanked on its east side by Nant Creuddyn and on its west side by the Afon Dulas, two tributaries of the Teifi.

The desk-based assessment concentrates on an area along the southern fringe of the town. The area to be affected by the CSO works themselves will be confined to a 12m wide corridor.

Most of the boundaries on the tithe plan of 1844 can still be identified on the ground, and it is likely that some, or all are significantly earlier. The course of the river at this point does not seem to have changed significantly since the mid 19th century, although some meandering northwards on the northern side of the bend has taken place.

2.2 THE ROUTE OF THE LAMPETER CSO (Fig 1)

The proposed route runs southwest from Peterwell School before crossing the lane just west of Greenfield Terrace. From here the route turns south-southeast and crosses the former Lampeter Common to connect with the STW. From the STW the line crosses a number of small pasture fields on the north bank of the Teifi and connects to the existing sewer line at Bridge Street. A number of short spurs run north from the line between the STW and Bridge Street to link with existing mains.

3. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

3.1 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE: A DEFINITION

The simple definition of the archaeological resource is the present landscape. The landscape we see around us today is the result of thousands of years of natural processes and human actions. Since the end of the last ice age, c.10,000 years ago, people have shaped and modified the landscape to suit their needs. The present landscape is the record of how those needs were met.

Even though in the past peoples' actions were often dictated by the constraints of the natural environment and the available technology, communities have, since the earliest of times, had a significant impact on the landscape. There are few, if any, areas in Britain left unaffected by human actions. It is fair to say that the Welsh landscape looks the way it does today because of peoples requirements and past decisions. Each feature within the landscape is an integral part of the long and complex history of human endeavour and achievement and cannot be viewed in isolation. Therefore, to fully understand the impact of these proposals it is necessary to consider the entire landscape.

3.2 LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

3.2.1 A ROMAN ROAD

The earliest recorded feature in the assessment area is part of the line of Roman road from Carmarthen to Llanio. The road line (PRN 29498) has recently been mapped from aerial photography (Murphy 1996-7) running through the southern end of the assessment area from the southwest. The road passes to the south of the STW and it appears that part of it has been washed away by the northward movement of the Afon Teifi. A small trial trench was excavated across part of the road line to the southwest of the STW (trench located at NGR SN57394745) in 1994 which revealed a layer of large stones overlain by a layer of gravel Burnham 1995, 329). A site visit to inspect the river banks for any evidence of the road revealed nothing of archaeological interest, so the condition of the road where it crosses the assessment area is unknown.

Until the maping programme of 1996-7 it was assumed that the road line remained east of the Teifi and followed a route 'broadly perpetuated by the modern A485' (James 1991, 68). The mapping has shown, hower, that the road crossed the Teifi somewhere to the north of Llanybyther and re-crossed the it at Llanio. Why the road crossed the river is unclear, although it has been very tentatively suggested that it may have been heading for a 'fort or other installation in the vicinity of Lampeter' (Murphy 1997). This, however, must remain mere conjecture in the absence of any evidence of Roman occupation in the Lampeter area.

The Teifi valley is a natural communications route and it is likely that the Roman road was following, or close to existing prehistoric routes. The Manchester to Milford railway was also to follow this route in the later 19th century.

3.2.2 THE TOWN: MEDIEVAL ORIGINS

Lampeter sits on the flood plain of the Afon Teifi. The town has developed slowly since the medieval period, with major growth occurring only in the 19th century. Prior to that it seems that the town had remained fairly static with its size and population similar to those of the 14th century when 19½ burgages were recorded (Soulsby 1983, 157).

It was the site of an early Norman castle(Soulsby & Jones 1976, 34; Soulsby 1983, 157), possibly constructed sometime around 1115-1120 by Stephen the Constable of Cardigan Castle. It is probably from this Stephen that the town takes its name. The castle was attacked and taken by the Welsh in 1137 (Jones 1952, 52: Cathcart King 1988, 45), and it was probably abandoned soon after. In the later 13th century the town was granted a charter for a weekly market and an annual fair which helped to maintain the town and turn it into a regional market centre. The broad High Street possibly reflects the site of the medieval market.

3.2.3 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN DEVELOPMENT

From the later medieval period to the early modern period the history of the town is largely unknown. It is uncertain whether the records from this period survive or if they have been lost: for whatever reason they were not available in the repositories visited during this assessment. Good records survive from the later 17th century onwards which reveal a small settled town still concentrated around the High Street area. During the late17th and 18th centuries the history of the town was linked to that of the nearby Peterwell Estate.

Peterwell was a large mansion situated to the southwest of the town. The original house was constructed sometime during the third quarter of the 17th century by David Evans the High Sheriff for Cardiganshire (Phillips 1997,15). The house underwent several phases of rebuilding and renovation before it was finally abandoned following its sale in 1781(Phillips 1997, 218). Peterwell mansion stood in landscaped gardens with views south to the Teifi. The Peterwell estate owned most of the land and properties in and around the town and it is almost certainly theowners who created the enclosure pattern still visible surrounding the town.

3.2.3.1 The enclosure pattern (fig 2)

Evidence from surviving documents shows that Lampeter common (see fig 2 for location) was drained (Phillips 1997, 95) and reduced in size during the mid-18th century (Inglis-Jones 1990, 41; Phillips 1997,107). Other evidence

indicates that some fields named on the tithe plan and still identifiable today existed in the mid-18th century. For example Cae Siôn Phillip (fig 2) was the subject of a wrangle that ended with tragic consequences (see below). These pieces of evidence suggest that the present layout of fields and boundaries in the assessment area was in place by at least the mid-18th century.

The boundaries themselves are a mixture of pitched stone walls and low, spread earth banks. Both types are generally eroded with hedgerow plants growing on them. The plants include some mature trees. It could be that all the boundaries were originally pitched stone; it was not clear from surface examination whether the pitched stone was a wall or if it was a core for an earth bank and hedge.

3.2.3.2 The modern town (fig 3)

It has been seen how the town had grown little prior to the later 19th century. One of the major developments in Lampeter was the establishment of St. David's College in the 1820s. The college was originally going to be sited in Llanddewi-brefi, but insufficient funds meant that the idea was abandoned and when land was offered at Lampeter the college went there (Jenkins 1998, 603). Originally built as a theological college, St. David's had, until the 1960s, a fairly small number of students and the college had a limited impact on the town or its hinterland.

Study of 19th and 20th century of maps has given a clear picture of the major phases of town development and how this has affected the assessment area. In 1844 the town was still centred on High Street, but by the 1890s development had started along College Street and south along Bridge Street. Expansion continued during the 20th century and the present town layout was established by the 1960s, although, there has been some modern infilling and development.

One of the most significant aspects of this modern expansion is the enclosure and loss of the former Lampeter Common (see fig 30, although encroachment onto the common is not new. The common originally dates from the medieval period and was at one time larger than that shown on the tithe map of 1844. In 1760 Sir Herbert Lloyd, the Lord of the Manor at Peterwell, took advantage of an Act of 1710, that allowed the gentry to enclose common land, to enclose a large part of Lampeter Common (Phillips 1997, 107).

4. POTENTIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED SCHEME ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE and MITIGATION MEASURES

4.1 GENERAL COMMENTS

This assessment was intended to identify the extent and, where possible, the character of any features liable to damage during the scheme and to decide on the position of test pits for geotechnical and archaeological investigation. The research has shown that several field boundaries will be directly affected by the works and it is extremely likely that the line of the Roman road will also be affected at the southeast end of the scheme.

4.2 SUGGESTED MITIGATION MEASURES

The route of the pipeline is fixed by existing sewerage structures and pipelines and confined to a 12m working corridor. This means that any archaeological features or deposits within that corridor are likely to be affected. Therefore, the following suggestions for mitigation measures have been devised to try to minimise the impact of the scheme.

4.2.1 Geotechnical test pits

The results of the assessment have clearly shown the area of most archaeological potential to be that between the STW and Bridge Street where it seems likely that the pipeline will cross the Roman road. The assessment has also shown that the exact line of the Roman road through this area is uncertain, indeed it may be outside the 12m corridor (it is assumed that the test pitting will be confined to the line of the 12m corridor). Therefore it is not possible to pinpoint exact locations where test pits are likely to encounter the road structure. In any case, it is likely that the exact siting of the pits will only be decided in the field because other factors (ground conditions, existing services, etc.) may influence their final positions.

Suggested action

 Archaeological recording of the sections exposed in the test pits should be carried out alongside the geotechnical recording.

4.2.2 The area between the STW and Bridge Street (fig 1)

This is the area of most archaeological potential. It is known that the Roman road line crosses this area and that it is almost certain to be crossed by the works at some point. Therefore, it is suggested that an intensive watching brief be carried out on this section of the scheme.

The watching brief would consist of archaeologically controlled topsoil stripping and continuous monitoring of deep trench cutting. This approach would allow the early identification of archaeological features and deposits so

they could be recorded and, where necessary, removed with little or no disruption to the overall scheme.

Suggested action

 Topsoil stripping should be carried out with continuous archaeological monitoring. Time should be made available to the archaeologists to record any features or deposits exposed during the topsoil stripping. Deep trench cutting should be carried out with continuous archaeological monitoring.

4.2.3 The rest of the pipeline route

Given the length of the scheme and the unpredictability of the buried archaeological resource a watching brief should be carried out on all topsoil stripping along the pipeline route to identify and rapidly record any features exposed.

This phase of the works should also include the recording of sections through the affected boundaries. It is clear that some of the boundaries in the area date from the 18th century and it may be possible to determine a typological and chronological sequence for the boundaries and the enclosure of the area.

Suggested action

 A non-intensive watching brief should be carried on topsoil stripping along the rest of the route. The watching brief will consist of site visits to inspect newly stripped areas and to record sections through the affected boundaries. Any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the topsoil stripping will be recorded as rapidly as possibly to avoid disruption to the overall scheme.

APPENDIX ONE: SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF THE SITE

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAMPETER

EARLY ORIGINS

The origin of the name of the town is uncertain. Lampeter appears to be an anglicized version of Llanbedr, the first element in the Welsh name for the town, Llanbedr-Pont-Stephan. The town was known as Pons Stephani (Stephen's Bridge) in 1188 when Gerald of Wales was chronicling his journey through the country (Thorpe 1988, 177 n.318). Morgan argued (1912, 87) that the Pont Stephan element of the name is of early 15th century origin, although it seems he was in fact perpetuating an error made by Samuel Meyrick who was writing in the early 19th century (Meyrick 1810, 198-9). It is more likely that the name derives from Stephen, the Constable of Cardigan Castle in the early 12th century (Thorpe 1988, 167 n.289). Lampeter Castle was known as Stephen's Castle in 1137, when it was burned and taken by the Welsh (Jones 1952, 52: Cathcart King 1988, 45), so it is reasonable to assume that the name Pont Stephan is from the same origin.

The Llanbedr (St. Peter's Church) element was probably added sometime during the 13th century following the establishment of the church (Ludlow 1998). Dedications to St. Peter are regarded as exclusively post-conquest, so the name Llanbedr-Pont-Stephan may be a marriage of Welsh and English elements.

EARLY TOWN DEVELOPMENT

A castle was established sometime during the early Norman period (Soulsby & Jones 1976, 34; Soulsby 1983, 157), possibly some time around 1115-20, presumably by Stephen the Constable of Cardigan Castle. The castle appears to have been short-lived: it was sacked and taken by the Welsh in 1137 (Jones 1952, 52: Cathcart King 1988, 45) and probably abandoned when Cardiganshire came back under Welsh control in 1138.

The town itself was possibly a Welsh foundation. A licence for a weekly market and an annual fair was granted in 1284/5 (Soulsby & Jones 1976, 34; Soulsby 1983, 157). The borough was a small one, expanding from 13 burgages in 1300-1 to 19½ burgages by 1317 (Soulsby 1983, 157). The original town is thought to have developed along a single broad street, now High Street. The former medieval burgage pattern is still traceable (Soulsby 1983, 157) and its broad form probably reflects its use as regional medieval market.

The later medieval and early modern history of the town is unknown and it is only from the 18th century that good records of the town and its role within the county become available.

LAMPETER TOWN IN THE 18TH CENTURY AND THE PETERWELL ESTATE

In the 18th century the history of the town and the nearby estate of Peterwell were entwined. The gentry of Cardiganshire, like those throughout the country, began to establish and develop their fortunes during the later medieval and early post-medieval periods. By the early 18th century their estates were extensive and the landscape was tightly controlled. Most of the property and land around Lampeter was part of the Peterwell Estate.

Peterwell was a large mansion (PRN 775) on the southwest side of Lampeter. The original house was constructed sometime during the third quarter of the 17th century by David Evans the High Sheriff for Cardiganshire (Phillips 1997,15). The house was enlarged and renovated several times during its history, before it was abandoned following its sale in 1781(Phillips 1997, 218). During its heyday the house was one of the finest in the county and it must have made quite a sight with its four corner domes covered in bronze and its roof garden. It stood in landscaped gardens with magnificent views away south to the Teifi. Although the gardens have gone the field name, Dial Field, from the tithe map (1844) may refer to a sun dial and thus be a reminder of the gardens.

Peterwell had a turbulent and relatively short-lived history. The house was built, developed into a considerable mansion and the seat of a powerful estate, was sold and became ruined all within 150 years. By 1798 stones from the house were being removed and used for renovating the poor houses of the district and by the first years of the 19th century the house was dilapidated and in ruins (Meyrick 1810, 207; Thompson (Ed.) 1983, 227; Phillips 1997, 223). Little of the house survives today except the overgrown remains of a tower and a pile of rubble (Lloyd 1986, 50; Colyer 1987, 31; Phillips 1 & 226).

Eighteenth century Lampeter was a small town 'consisting of a single cobbled street, with indifferent cottages and alehouses scattered along the edge of the common' (Phillips 1997, 82). The town is unlikely to have grown much since the medieval period and probably still depended on its markets and fairs for its survival. Sir Richard Colt Hoare writing in the early years of the 19th century described it as a 'little village situated nearly a quarter of a mile from the River Tivy over which there is a bridge' (Thompson (Ed.) 1983, 227). The town remained relatively small until the late 19th century.

There is evidence from published work, primary documents and local tradition that can give clues to the landscape of the mid-18th century. One story, well known in the region, has Sir Herbert Lloyd, the Squire of Peterwell from 1755-1769, conniving to falsely accuse a neighbour of sheep stealing (a capital offence in the 18th century) because the neighbour would not sell him his land. The story relates that the only other building that Sir Herbert Lloyd could see from his roof garden at Peterwell was the cottage of Siôn Phillip which sat in the corner of the only field between Peterwell and the Teifi not

owned by Lloyd. Many attempts to buy out Siôn Phillip failed and in his anger Lloyd hatched a plot that has survived in local folklore.

The plot was cunning and well conceived. In essence, Lloyd arranged for two of his workers to hide a prized black ram in one of his own farm buildings for a few days while at the same time raising search parties to look for it. Thus with the groundwork laid and with the furore over the missing ram at its height Lloyd had his workers lower the ram down Siôn Phillip's chimney one night. Then acting on a supposed tip-off Lloyd arrived with the constable at Phillip's cottage to find the ram and Phillip, who by this time had naturally been woken by the noise of the ram in the cottage. Phillip was arrested for stealing the ram and even though most people in the area knew the charges were false no one was willing to stand up to testify on his behalf. Phillip was hanged after a spell in Cardigan gaol and his land and cottage became the property of the Lord of the Manor, in this case Lloyd.

How much of the story is true is open to question, but there is no doubt that the field and cottage existed. The field in question survives and is still called Cae Siôn Phillip and the remains of a cottage in one corner of the field were known to the present land owner (Phillips 1997, 151-164). If true, this story not only reveals the nature of Sir Herbert Lloyd it also clearly indicates that there were no other buildings south of Peterwell in the area of the sewage treatment works and the area affected by the current CSO proposals. Furthermore, it suggests that the enclosure pattern of fields surrounding an area of common shown on the tithe map (1844) was established by the mid-19th century.

The common was artificially drained, at the town's expense, during the mid 18th century to try to stop the frequent flooding (Phillips 1997, 95) and it is likely that some of the small drains in the area today date from that period. It is probable that the common was originally much larger than that shown on the tithe map for it is known that in 1760 Sir Herbert Lloyd enclosed a large area of Lampeter Common (Inglis-Jones 1990, 41; Phillips 1997,107). Lloyd was able to do this by taking advantage of an Act of 1710 that allowed the gentry to enclose common land. The boundaries of the common as shown on the tithe map are still identifiable, but in the absence of earlier maps it is not possible to estimate the extent of the pre-1760 common.

Comparison of the tithe map and a recently published list of properties and lands belonging to the Peterwell Estate (Phillips 1997, 238-239 Appendix C) shows that most of the current study area belonged to the Peterwell Estate during the mid- to late 18th century.

ST. DAVID'S COLLEGE AND LATER TOWN DEVELOPMENT

There is no doubt that the modern history of the town is linked to the foundation and subsequent growth of St. David's College. The college was established in 1822 and opened in 1827 when the first intakes of 64 students were admitted (Lewis 1833; Jenkins 1998, 603). Until the college expanded

and became a university during the 1960s its size and the number of students remained fairly close to the 1827 levels. The college practically doubled in size in the early 1960s (Price 1990, Appendix IIIa) and it became a major influence upon the town and its hinterland.

The more recent growth of the town can be traced through map evidence which shows rapid expansion during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The tithe survey of 1844 shows the town still centered on High Street and the Harford Square area, but by the time the Ordnance Survey 1st edition was published in 1891 the town had expanded east along College Street, south along Bridge Street and Station Terrace had been built. There had also been development along Drovers Road and in the Peterwell School area. Further expansion south along Bridge Street and some development on the former common had taken place by the time of the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition (1907). By this time the southward expansion along Bridge Street had reached its present extent, although there has been some modern infilling.

By the 1960s further development had occurred in the Peterwell School area and behind Bridge Street where Teifi Terrace, Kingsmead and New Street were constructed.

APPENDIX TWO: PRIMARY CARTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

A number of repositories were checked for relevant archaeological information during the course of this assessment. They included the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); University of Wales, Lampeter; The National Library of Wales (NLW).

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 1844 Lampeter tithe map and apportionment. (SMR)
- 1868 Cardigan: contributory borough of Lampeter. (NLW acc. No. M8071)
- 1891 Ordnance Survey 6" 1st edition, Cards, XXXIVSW. (SMR)
- 1907 Ordnance Survey 6" 2nd edition, Cards.XXXIVSW. (SMR)
- 1889 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 1st edition, Cards.XXXIV.13. (SMR)
- 1905 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 2nd edition, Cards.XXXIV.13. (SMR)
- 1964 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Quarter Sheet SN54NE. (SMR)

APPENDIX THREE: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Sortie	Frame No.	Year	Held by	Comments
Meridian Air Maps	35171-35175	1955	SMR	Shots taken in winter with good low sunlight, although patchy cloud cover on some frames. Some interesting details, but little of interest shown along the proposed sewer route.
OS95-118/063*		1995	RCAHMW	Large scale print. Good quality. Roman road line visible.
OS71-063*	166-168	1971	RCAHMW	Low sunlight and good visiblity. The Roman road line is not visible. Remains of Peterwell mansion were visible.
106G/UK/1471 [†]	3051-3053	1946	RCAHMW	Partial cloud cover, but the light is generally good. The plotted sections of the Roman road are visible.
58/2318/F.21 [†]	0218-1220	1957	RCAHMW	Very high level coverage. Good light, with little cloud cover. Too high to see archaeological detail.

^{*} Ordnace Survey sorties
† RAF sorties

APPENDIX FOUR: CATALOGUE OF RESEARCH ARCHIVE

The project archive has been indexed and catalogued according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

- A. Copy of the report.
- B. Notes from site visits.
- D. Site photographs catalogue, colour slides, B/W contact sheets.
- **G**. Documentary data, including primary and published sources.
- I. Draft copies of report.
- J. Publication drawings.
- M. Miscellaneous correspondence

There is no material for classes C, E, F, H, K, L and N.

The project archive is currently held by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Dyfed as project number 37408.

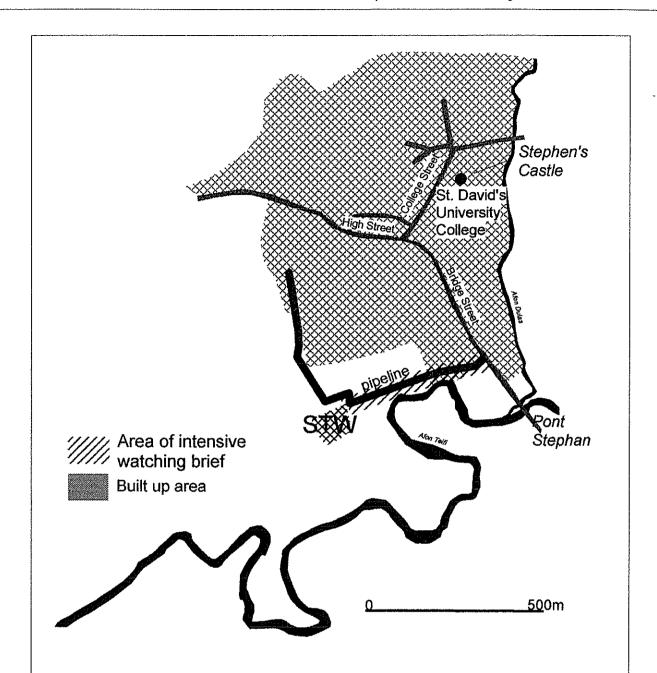
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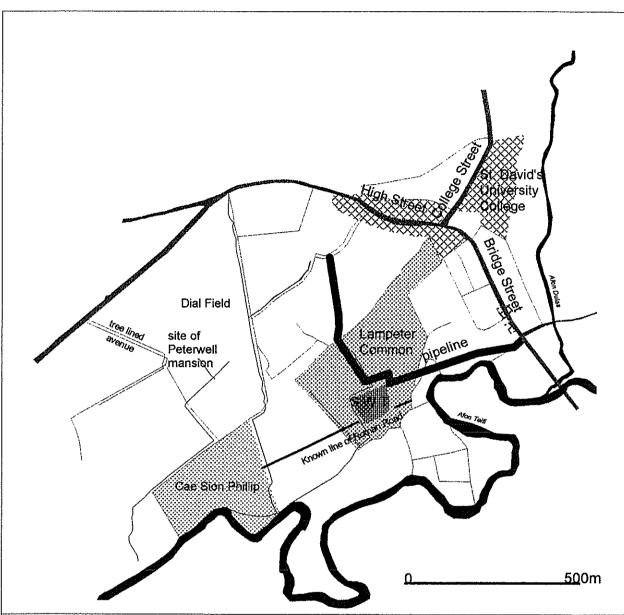
Squire. Cymceithas Lyfrau Ceredigion. Aberystwyth.

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Drawing: Figure 1 - Location plan showing extent of town and proposed pipeline route. The castle and bridge mentioned in the text have also been shown

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Drawing: Figure 2 - Boundaries and developed areas shown on the tithe map of 1844 and still traceable today. Field names and placenames mentioned in the text have been marked.

The line of the Roman road plotted from aerial photographs has been added.

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